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American Journal of Philately.

A Monthly Journal devoted to the interests of Stamp Collectors.

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JOHN N. LUUFF, Editor.

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"Advance Australia." **O**N the 2½ pence stamp, issued in 1891 in New South Wales, we find the motto, "Advance Australia," and the sentiment it expresses is prevalent at the present time throughout the Commonwealth. It is an ambitious motto and ambition is always commendable in a state, unless it be of the world compelling variety.

The states composing the Commonwealth, as well as their neighbor, New Zealand—by philatelists they are always included in the same group, the Australian Colonies—we know to be making great commercial and material advances, but their postal issues do not show any artistic improvement, although numerically, they "wisely swell." As stamp collectors, we are, of course, interested in all new things in this line, and have beheld with regret the artistic falling off in the issues of these countries. There are no more beautiful stamps in our albums than the diadem issue of New South Wales, the first issues of New Zealand, South Australia, Tasmania, and the swan stamps of Western Australia. These charming issues were all made in England. Most of the Australian colonies have, of late years, had their stamps made at home, with moderately successful results in a few instances and bad in others—the 1891-99 issues of Queensland, for example. But, since the formation of the Commonwealth, things have gone from bad to worse. South Australia and West Australia have been the chief offenders. The posters issued by the former state must be an unmitigated nuisance to those who have to use them. But West Australia has done still worse; she has abandoned the graceful swan, taken from her coat of arms, and has replaced it by a lot of make-shifts fashioned from altered designs of the Victorian stamps. In spite of changed denominations and colors, they seem to us entirely Victorian and do not in the least suggest West Australia. The contrast between the beautiful engraving and fine printing of the abandoned series and the coarse lines and heavy printing of the new stamps is painful.

But, if the collector of postage stamps has a distasteful task before him in gathering the recent Australian issues, his sufferings are small compared with those of the fiscalist. A correspondent in that part of the world sent us a letter, in which he said, "South Australia has issued a new penny fiscal. Look at it!" The stamp was an abomination in purple and green. We did look at it, for it compelled attention,—there was something fascinating in its ugliness,—but we looked the other way as soon as we could. We have for-

gotten how this particular horror was separated from its fellows, as we promptly presented it to a man to whom we wished to be especially disagreeable, but its successors have been perforated, serrated compounded, etc., etc. Our correspondent sends us every one of them. We don't know just what we have done to him, but it must have been something very aggravating to prompt such a revenge. If we did not think he had become calloused by looking at the recent Australian issues, we should send him one of the new United States envelopes and tell him to take a good look at it before going to bed. It would produce nightmare in any but a hardened philatelist.

Our impression is that there is a law, though it may be only an unwritten one, that all stamps to be used by the several states must be designed and manufactured within the Commonwealth. Possibly this was only the law of certain of the states, since Tasmania and West Australia have, until quite recently, gone to England for their stamps, while the other colonies have been producing theirs at home. At any rate, all seem to be observing, at present, the rule of encouraging home industries. More's the pity!

It may not be out of place to ask why, when King Edward sits on the throne, do these, his colonies, bring out so many stamps bearing the portrait of the late Queen?



Our Correspondents.

We feel certain that our readers will welcome the re-appearance in our columns of "Our English Letter." Though we have little more than a sample to offer this month, we are promised that there will be much and more of it in the future. Mr. Nankivell's chatty and interesting way of mingling the news of the day with bits of useful information has found favor with our readers, and his letters have been greatly missed in recent months. As has been elsewhere reported, Mr. Nankivell has sold his wonderful collection of Transvaals and invested the purchase in land—something between a garden plot and an estate—and we understand he is now engaged in erecting a house. The struggle with agents, architects and builders has so fully occupied his time, that other matters have, perchance, been neglected. We hope he may soon be comfortably installed under his own roof tree, with nothing to do but write, be happy and write evermore. Incidentally, we may say that Mr. Nankivell has by no means parted with all his philatelic holdings, and that he expects to retain his philatelic interest and continue as a collector.

We are pleased to announce that we have arranged with Mr. E. W. Wetherell, late editor of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, to furnish us a monthly letter from India. That country is out of the beaten track and things philatelic there have at least the merit of novelty. Most of us are given to regard the issues of the Native States as so many arrangements of incomprehensible pothooks; but if we will only take a little trouble with them they become quite intelligible and really interesting, especially if we follow the guidance of the excellent text books issued by the Philatelic Society of India, the articles published in the official organ of the Society and those written by Major Evans. Most parts of the philatelic world have been so studied and written up that there seems nothing more to be said about

them; therefore, a country that offers virgin fields for investigation should merit our attention and promises to be of interest.

With this number we present another of Mr. Howes' valuable papers upon the designs of stamps of the Australian Continent and the adjacent islands. Mr. Howes has the happy faculty of taking familiar stamps and showing us that they contain a wealth of details which often has escaped our attention; he has also a pleasing way of telling us the history and meaning of many things which appear on stamps, which are usually new and always interesting. We hope to offer our readers many more of these agreeable and instructive articles.



Some Stamp Designs.

C. A. HOWES.

(Continued from page 7.)

On the 23d of September, 1896, Queen Victoria passed the mark which gave her the distinction of having the longest reign of any monarch in English history. Her grandfather, King George III, had reigned fifty-nine years, three months and four days, and it was this record reign that was distanced at the time mentioned. Soon after came the Diamond Jubilee, or sixtieth anniversary of her accession, on June 28, 1897. A wave of patriotic enthusiasm swept over the British Empire and jubilee celebrations of all kinds were held, from the mother country to the remotest possession. As usual there were commemorative stamps to celebrate the event and New South Wales again opened a competition for suitable designs, but only in three values. A prize of £10 10s was offered for the best design in each case, and one of £3 3s. for the next best. The result was heralded as something very fine, but we must again confess to disappointment when the stamps came to hand. They were issued on June 22, 1897 and at the same time the old five shilling coin type was reissued, the four stamps taking the place of the same values of the centennial set which were demonetized on the first of the next January.



The one penny gives us the present coat of arms of the colony, in contrast to the great seal of the first issue. Blazoned in its proper colors it is: a silver shield charged with the red cross of St. George; at the centre of the cross is one of the golden lions taken from the English coat-of-arms, and at the extremity of each arm a golden star, emblematic of the constellation of the Southern Cross. The whole is surmounted by the Imperial Crown. The two pence has the arms for a background, the ends of the cross with the four stars being just visible around the framed portrait of Her Majesty. This frame shows at the bottom a conventionalized waratah blossom, and at the sides spring up two sprays of native rose, each topped with a flower. The 2½ penny shows nothing in particular except four stars of the Southern Cross around the head, after the manner of the 5 shilling coin type.



In closing with New South Wales it may be asked how many have ever

noticed that the postage due stamps are an almost exact copy of the design of our own first issue? Save for the insertion of "N. S. W." at the bottom and the replacing of the letters "u" and "s" at the sides by a tiny Kangaroo and a diminutive emu respectively, the greatest difference in their appearance lies wholly in the execution, the American being from steel plates and the Australian from electrotypes. It is a curious fact that these stamps, with the letters "N. S. W." erased, have become the first general issue for the Australian Commonwealth.

It has already been stated that Australia was discovered by the Dutch who sailed thither from Batavia. One of their explorers, Willem de Vlaming, visited the west coast in 1697 and, at the mouth of what was called in consequence the Swan River, he captured the first specimen of the hitherto unheard of black swan. A year afterward accounts of the discovery reached England through the burgomaster of Amsterdam, and these were published by the Royal Society in 1698. For a long time such an anomaly as a black swan was considered an impossibility, and the reports were not credited. Nevertheless the plumage of the bird is a sooty black which is set off by a red bill and pure white quill feathers—the latter being well represented near the tail in the picture on the stamps made for Western Australia by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. The early Perkins Bacon engravings do not show them. The cygnets or young swans are light colored like those of the white swan.



In 1829 the British flag was hoisted at the mouth of the Swan River and on August 12th of that year the foundation of Perth, the present capital, was laid about 12 miles up the river. The name "Swan River Settlement" was first given the new colony, which afterwards became known as Western Australia, and more recently as West Australia. The colony's coat of arms has always been, most appropriately, a black swan on a gold shield.

On the first stamp of the De La Rue type, the 3 pence brown, the spandrels are filled in with bulrushes or "cat-o'-nine-tails", while the 2½ penny of 1901 shows flowers and sprays of hibiscus.

South Australia shows nothing of note except to claim recognition, equally with New South Wales, as the home of the Kangaroo by the 2½ penny stamp issued March 1, 1894. This, with its companion stamp of 5 pence, was the result of a competition in which £5 was offered for the best design for each value. The designs are certainly very neat and attractive.



In 1900 a new half penny stamp was issued showing the General Post Office at Adelaide. The capital of South Australia is well laid out in squares, and in the very centre, occupying two blocks, is the handsome Victoria Square. Opposite one end of this little park, on the corner of Franklin and King William Streets, is the headquarters of the Post and Telegraph Department of the State, one of the finest buildings in Australia. It is of white freestone with a tower 156 feet high, called the Victoria Tower. This is furnished with a clock which strikes the hours and chimes the quarters, the dial being illuminated at night. The clock face can be seen on the stamp and also a bit of Victoria Square, while just beyond, across King William Street, is seen the tower on the Town Hall. This latter is called the Albert Tower and is 145 feet high.



Though tabooed by many, the quasi postage stamps issued by Victoria during the recent Boer war are collected by some on account of their historical interest, and so may be described here. Their avowed purpose was to "augment the Empire Patriotic or Bushmen's Corps Funds" in the interest of the Victorian soldiers participating in the South African war. The designs were competed for at £5 5s for the best design in each case and £2 2s. for the next best.

The one penny stamps were sold at one shilling each and the two penny stamps at two shillings each, the difference between the selling price and the denomination going to the "fund." As an extra inducement to purchase, the stamps were good for postage to the amount of their face value but only within the limits of the colonies, as temporary "commemorative" stamps had already been banned by the Postal Union from use in international mails. Of the one penny stamps 40,000 were printed and 20,000 of the two penny, and they were issued in June, 1900.

There were 120 competitive designs submitted, of which the two illustrated took first prize. The one penny shows that decoration most prized by all Britons, be they noble or humble—the Victoria Cross, for no one may obtain it save through conspicuous bravery in the service of his sovereign, and the opportunity may come equally to the stoker or the field-marshall. The decoration was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1856. It is a bronze cross, somewhat Maltese in pattern, with a circular disc in the middle on which are the royal crown and crest. It is suspended from a ribbon, blue for the navy and red for the army, and a bronze bar is attached to the ribbon for any such additional act of gallantry as would have otherwise won a cross. The motto on the ribbon beneath the crown, "FOR VALOUR", denotes its object, and the designer has inscribed "S. AFRICA—1900" in addition. The color of the stamp is a sort of olive brown, possibly to suggest the Khaki color of the uniforms worn by the troops.

The two penny "depicts a picket on foot and armed scouts scanning the horizon of the open veldt in the Transvaal, whilst in the distance are the faint outlines of the hills which the British have had to scale. The central figures are clad in the uniform of the Victorian contingents." The color is an emerald green.

A very attractive addition to our albums was made in the middle of 1901 when the colony of British New Guinea issued its own set of postage stamps. This comparatively new colony comprises the southeastern portion of the island of New Guinea and lies directly north of Queensland. The island was discovered by the Portuguese but its present name was given it in 1546 by a Spanish navigator, from the resemblance of its inhabitants to the West African negroes. In 1846 Capt. M. S. Rattlesnake surveyed the coasts and islands of the south side, and in 1873 Capt. Moresby in the *Basilisk* determined the outlines of the southeastern portion and named Port Moresby where the capital now is. These explorations gave the English a claim to the portions of the island nearest Australia and the Queensland Government took possession of it in the name of the Queen on April 4, 1883. The next year occurred the Berlin Conference which carved out Africa for the Great Powers, and which also divided eastern New Guinea between Germany and England—Holland having for centuries controlled the western end. Therefore, on November 6, 1884, a Protectorate was proclaimed, and four years later, on September 4, 1888, British New Guinea was constituted a crown colony and placed under the administration of Queensland. A settlement was made in 1885 near the native town of Tanubada at Port Moresby, which has since become the chief town and capital of the colony.

While under the Queensland Government its postal matters were conducted as if it were a district of that colony and therefore the Queensland stamps were employed. The only way of distinguishing the latter is by the obliteration which consists of an oval made up of parallel bars with the black letters B. N. G. in the middle.

When the Australian Commonwealth came into existence on January 1, 1901, and Queensland became a state, the crown colony of British New Guinea was unprovided for, but in November of that year the Commonwealth Government undertook its administration so that its Governor is now responsible to the Commonwealth instead of the state of Queensland. Under that famous "book-keeping" arrangement by which no general issue of stamps for the new nation and no interchangeability of issues between the states was permissible for five years, of course British New Guinea was obliged to issue its own stamps, and collectors will certainly not begrudge the privilege in this case, whatever they think of other happenings among the states.



The designs shows a native trading craft or *lakatoi*. This is made from two single canoes which are hollowed out of a single tree trunk with a stone

axe and then lashed together with about 18 inches between them. Some of these are provided with as many as six rectangular sails or mats, made from the bark of the sago palm or from the pandanus leaf. Each of these mats is supported by two masts springing from the gunwales. Other boats have single masts on which is hoisted a lateen sail double the height of the mast, oval and hollowed out at the top so as to leave two points which at a distance resemble the horns of some marine monster gliding over the surface of the water. It is this type of lakatoi that is shown on the stamps.

Port Moresby is the centre of an extensive native pottery industry and at favorable seasons of the year the lakatois are loaded and proceed on extended voyages along the coast, where the wares are traded for supplies of sago which is not produced around Port Moresby. The latter place is 380 miles from Cooktown in northern Queensland and its connections with the outside world are all through that town.



Our English Letter.

BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

LONDON, 7, March, 1903.

We are running along in a jog trot style in the matter of stamps just now. Indeed, if it were not for the little excitement of the continual changes which are every week being heralded from one or the other of our colonies in the substitution of the King's for the Queen's head we should be in a state of philatelic inertia. We are, for the passing moment suffering from the results of the sacrifices which the country has had to make in the South African war. Business in general is waiting for the turn of the tide. We are all, in fact, waiting for the turn of the tide. But we are waiting in the satisfied belief that the turn is not far off. There is no slump, but on the other hand, there is no obtrusive activity.

This placidity in our philatelic waters is evident in every quarter. There is no boom in any direction. Indeed it would take a fine discrimination to say what country, if any, is uppermost in favor just now. The knowing ones are quietly feathering their collections while prices are quiet and business of any sort is welcome. They are not troubled by the absence of excitement, on the contrary, they welcome it as a godsend, for your keen philatelic specialist likes to fish quietly in untroubled waters, and bye and bye he will be showing the grand results of his unobtrusive labors. The shallow minded collector, who is forever being disturbed by fears of a collapse, holds his hands to see which way the tide is going to turn, and when it turns he will turn with it, and he will pay the cost of his timidity.

New issues are much in vogue, and not unnaturally, for there has never in the annals of stamp collecting been a more notable rush of interesting new issues. When the rush is over and our colonies have once more settled down to set types, I wonder what will be the net result from the stamp collector's point of view. I fancy a few, a good few, who have been and are gambling in new issues, will have burnt their fingers very badly, and serve them right. I take a most unholly pleasure in hearing of the discomfiture and ruin of the mere stamp speculator. The earnest stamp collector is entitled to all the gains that accrue to the man who collects wisely, and so long as I can, from such vantage point as I may possess, help the genuine collector to collect wisely and profitably, I shall snap my fingers at those who dub me tipster to the A. J. P. Such experience as I have gathered and such knowledge and information as I may gather are always placed ungrudgingly at the service of my old friends the readers of the A. J. P. If, as I am told in a contemporary of yours, the gambler makes use of the information, I can only say that I hope, and believe he will come off badly second best.

It is one thing to hasten the acquisition of a current stamp or a series, that is running short, it is quite another thing to speculate in a stock of that stamp. The collector protects himself against a possible rise, the speculator enters for a rise which may not come off. A fresh supply does not affect the collector, but it ruins the speculator.

The Value of a Standard.

BY CRAWFORD CAPEN.

The collecting of stamps proceeds in a different manner from that of nearly every other form of collecting. It has in the catalogue that which other kinds of collecting do not have—a standard whereby can be measured the value of that which the collector buys.

The thought of the different position occupied by the collector of pictures or bric-a-brac makes one appreciate the advantages of such a standard. There is no way in which collectors of these objects can judge the value of their purchases with any great degree of accuracy. The catalogues of sales held in the large cities are very deficient in giving one an idea of value. The descriptions that are given of the articles that are sold are not complete enough to enable anyone who does not see them to decide concerning the prices. Duplicates of some of these articles do not come up for sale very often; therefore the auction catalogues of such sales are not as valuable to the collector as auction catalogues of stamp sales. These latter auction catalogues would not be nearly so valuable as they are were it not for the fact that one can refer to the catalogue and gain therefrom an idea of what has been sold.

There are fashions in stamp collecting, and the prices of the stamps of the British West Indies for example are high at auction at one time and low at another, simply because they are in favor or out of it. The catalogue, however, gives a standard of value for these stamps, no matter whether they are the rage or not, and collectors can in a measure determine their value by the prices of the catalogue. It does not matter that catalogue prices are sometimes subject to discounts, that certain stamps can to day be purchased at no greater discount than ten per cent. off catalogue and next year may be obtainable at twenty five or even fifty per cent. discount. The collector who studies the catalogue and the market has always in his book a means of deciding about what the value of any stamp in his possession may be. The value of a catalogue as a standard is enhanced in the mind of the collector when, by the making of numerous purchases at auction, he discovers how little he knows of value by this means. This is especially evident in the cases that have been mentioned of the sale of pictures or bric-a-brac. The writer visited a sale of bronzes lately where successive articles were knocked down to one of the largest museums of the country simply because that museum was bound to have them at about double the price which most collectors would be willing to pay. The Barbizon school of paintings is in vogue to day. A Daubigny or Dupre will bring an enormous price, while a painting of equal merit by an American will command only a few hundred dollars. When the fashion turns to the great Americans the reverse will be the case. No one can buy the things that are popular in these lines at the present time with any assurance that he will succeed twenty years hence in realizing what has been paid for them. The case, however, with stamps is entirely different. If one turns his attention to the gathering of fine specimens of those countries which may be denominated as non speculative in their issues, the passage of ten or twenty years is bound to show an advance in value. We may know this by making a comparison of the catalogues of twenty years ago with those of to-day. Thus a standard catalogue is a distinct and definite advantage which the collector of stamps has over the collector of any other articles which may be fancied. A catalogue, in order to

be a standard, need not present an absolutely correct schedule of prices. This is, in the first place, a thing which cannot be done. It takes six months to make a good catalogue and prices are changing continually during that period. The only thing that is necessary is that the makers of the catalogue shall use their best endeavors to appreciate the values of the stamps which they list.

The catalogue, in order to be a standard in its prices must be made on the world's available stock of stamps. The nearer the catalogue makers approach to the understanding of what is the floating stock—that is the stock which is in the market for sale—the nearer will they be able to come to values and the better standard will the book be. The difficulty of exact pricing, even with a knowledge of what the stock in existence is, is shown by cases which arise from time to time. Confusion for instance, was the result of a recent sale of stamps of the British West Indies. This lot was part of the total known available stock but no one expected that it would come upon the market suddenly at a low price. It has depreciated for the moment the value of these stamps, and they are publicly offered at large discounts from catalogue prices. The lot, however, will soon be absorbed and, since it is not very large, we see no reason why it should affect materially the values of these stamps. There are other cases in which a stamp issued in considerable quantities is "cornered." Such, for instance, is the case of the 1c on 3c Cuba, of which there were 150,000 printed and most of them were bought by speculators within a few days. Attempts have been made to market the lot at high prices but, since the dealers have refused to touch it, the stamp is now offered at a comparatively reasonable price. If the makers of catalogues had priced this stamp on the number in their own stocks, within a few months of the date on which it was issued, it might have been called a stamp worth a dollar instead of twelve cents.

The method of handling the stamps of Mauritius and the Seychelles Islands, has always been speculative, and some values have been invariably bought up as soon as they were issued and held for a rise. The pricing of these stamps on the stock which any dealer held of them would certainly be an absurdity. This is the fact in regard to many issues and the only reasonable way in which to make prices is upon the world's stock in first hands, that is the original speculators or the dealers who hold them for sale. If it were the invariable practice of the catalogue makers, as it has been that of the large dealers, to price on the basis of the world's stock, instead of what they may themselves have on hand, the speculative attempts to control the market in relation to the issues of certain countries would be even less successful than they have been in the past. The issues of remainders from time to time, and special distributions of large quantities of stamps made by the Governments which have issued them, have a distinct effect in changing the prices of the catalogues. New knowledge, also, as to the numbers in existence is continually coming to the catalogue makers, but their effort always should be and always will be, so far as possible, to make the prices correspond with the values at the date of issue, that the work may be as accurate a standard as possible for the use of collectors.

U. S. Envelopes.

RACINE, WIS., March 17, 1903.

SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO.,

Gentlemen:—

I know you are always willing to receive suggestions and, therefore, I enclose herewith, a list of a few changes which, in my opinion, will add greatly to the completeness of the U. S. envelope portion of the "Standard Catalogue".

Eliminate No. 1445a, 1875, 2c vermilion, die B₃, on amber.

" " 1449, 1880, 2c " " D " "

" " 1519, 1884, 2c red (Kellogg) " "

" " 1520, " 2c " " fawn.

" " 1523, 1886, 2c brown, die B, on oriental buff.

Add No. 1377a, 1870, 1c ultramarine on amber.

" " 1468a, 1874, 2c, die A, on orange.

" " 1518a, 1884, 2c lake on white.

" " 1530a, 1886, 10c black on blue.

" " 1537a, 1886, 10c red brown on manila.

" " 1544a, 1886, 1cc " " on amber manila.

" " 1592a, 1895, 4c scarlet on white.

" " 1592b, 1895, 5c " " amber.

" " 1597a, 1899 2c brown lake on white.

" " 1717a, 1880, 2c vermilion, die B₃, on manila.

The following is a brief statement of my reasons for suggesting the changes:

No. 1445a—This is an envelope that I know nothing about. Until you listed it, it was, so far as I have been able to ascertain, entirely unheard of and, so far, I have never been able to find anyone who knows anything about it. Have you not gotten this and No. 1717a mixed?

No. 1449—This never existed so far as I have been able to find out. It was first listed in the T. B. & R. book. Both Mr. Tiffany and Mr. Rechert (and, I think, Mr. Bogert) told me personally that they had never seen it but that, as it existed on white, they *took it for granted* that it must exist on amber also and listed it accordingly.

No. 1519 and 1520—These envelopes were listed in T. B. & R. entirely upon the authority of Mr. Holton. The latter gentleman once told me that he knew of one box of each, but that they would never come upon the market *under any conditions*. If I remember rightly he said that he had not seen them himself. Allowing that they did exist, which I doubt very much, I believe them to be on a par with the ten cents of 1887 in a yellow-ochre color, a few of which got out, but which were never regularly issued.

No. 1523—This was originally catalogued upon this paper in the A. J. of P. and, if you will take the trouble to look it up, you will find that, in a number of a little latter date, it was stated that it was catalogued upon this paper in error, that it should have read "Fawn paper". I also remember that Mr. Kerfoot called my attention to the error at the same time.

No. 1377a—This is a most pronounced shade, or color rather, and is certainly much more worthy of listing than the ten cents black of the same

series and upon the same paper. If you have ever seen the envelope you will have no hesitancy in admitting this.

No. 1468a—I have a specimen of this in my collection; it is true that its rather faded condition conveys the idea that it was, originally, in one of those frames of "Specimen" envelopes which used to be hung up in the post offices but, admitting that it comes "Specimen" only, it is on exactly the same basis as the 1c, War Department on amber, which is altogether unknown excepting in "Specimen" sets. Neither has the word "Specimen" on the stamp.

However, the 2c on orange exists without the "Specimen" as it was one of those envelopes which were printed especially for exhibition at the Centennial in 1876.

No. 1518a—A well known and decided shade variety which should, by all means, be listed.

No. 1530a—This is not the one commonly called black and which is, in reality, a very dark brown, but a distinct variety, the black being of an ashy, or grayish, shade entirely unlike any of the browns and yet not at all the intense black of the 3cc of the same series.

No. 1537a and 1544a—These envelopes are too well known, and universally recognized, to leave even the shadow of an excuse for their being longer ignored by any list that claims to be a "Standard". They are much more distinct and easily recognized than the majority of the listed shades of the adhesives and, while I do not believe in shading envelopes down as fine as the adhesives, I most certainly do believe in recognizing distinct tints as exemplified in this instance.

No. 1592a and 1592b—These are parallel cases with the last excepting that they have the distinction of being of an entirely different series from any of the other 4c values of the same die. They were printed in this color only by the Purcell Co. And only *in this color* by them, both those of 1887 and 1895 (Plimpton & Morgan) being in carmine, varying from almost pink to a very deep carmine lake. As you list the 1c in dark blue, which was, also, only issued by the Purcell Co., you have no valid excuse for neglecting to list these.

No. 1597a—I note that you have dropped this. Why is it? Surely you could have no better authority for its being an error of color than the explanation of it that was given to the P. O. Dep't. by the contractors and the subsequent recognition of it by the Department.

No. 1717a—As mentioned before I believe that you have mixed this up with your No. 1445a. At all events this *does* exist as a wrapper. It was first shown to me as a "Specimen" by Mr. Gurdji many years ago while we were both living in Chicago. I have since seen it entire without the word "Specimen", although I cannot now recall where or when.

With the exception of the last one I can show you all of the varieties mentioned above if you care to see them, and, as you know, I shall be glad to do so.

Of course I have offered the above merely in the nature of suggestions which you are the one to decide whether or not you wish to accept. My feelings will not be hurt if you decide against me and there is no harm done by suggesting them.

I have not mentioned the orange varieties of the 1899 series as I know that you are prejudiced against them. Personally, however, I believe them

to be all right although I do not deny that they can be made to order *on white paper.*

What an abortion the new 2c envelope is : It looks more like a cheap imitation of baggage check than anything that I know of and I cannot see how the Department, after producing such artistic designs as compose the new series of adhesives, could ever have approved such a libel upon art and good taste as the monstrosity that they have just sent out for our edification (?)

Sincerely yours,

GEO. L. TOPPAN.

As is explained in the opening paragraph, this letter was written with the purpose of bringing to the attention of our publishers certain suggestions for improvements in our catalogue. It seemed to us, however, that it might be of interest to some of our readers and, therefore, we obtained Mr. Toppans permission to publish it. Comment and suggestion of this character are always welcome, especially when coming from a recognized authority like Mr. Toppans.

We are inclined to take issue with him in regard to No. 1597a. Two or three years ago we purchased several of these envelopes and accidentally left them for a few days where they were exposed to light though not to the direct rays of the sun. To our surprise the color changed to a light red. Our conclusion was that a color which was so easily bleached might have been as easily darkened by other atmospheric conditions.



Hoi Hao.

In several recent numbers of the *Echo de la Timbrologie* we find interesting paragraphs concerning the Indo China stamp of 15 centimes blue surcharged for use in Hoi Hao. We translate for the benefit of our readers

December 31, 1902. "A correspondent writes us from Hai phong : 'The surcharge Hoi Hao on the stamp of 15 centimes blue of Indo China is the work of a forger who has been arrested and condemned in court at Hanoi in the past year. This stamp has never existed with this surcharge.' This declaration comes from an authoritative source, so we advise our readers to strike from our catalogue the two lines relating to this stamp."

January 15, 1903. "Protests have been made from various directions against our last information on the subject of the stamps of 15c blue, of Hoi Hao. There have been forwarded to us some letters on this subject from the Receiver of the office.

We submit them to our readers.

On the 6th of May he wrote to one of his correspondents :

'Hoping to please you, I send you, in addition, 5 stamps of 15c blue. These are some stamps which remain to me from *one* sheet which was intended for the office at Canton and on which the surcharge Hoi Hao was printed by error.'

To another person he wrote on the 7th of May :

'Hoping to please you, I take the liberty to send you enclosed fifty stamps of the 15c blue, coming from *one* sheet which was intended for my colleague at Canton and which, by error, was surcharged with the name of my office.'

In a third letter, dated the 19th September, he wrote finally :

'In all, three sheets were issued ; of these three sheets one was sent to France and the other two were sold here.'

The statements of the Receiver of Hoi Hao are evidently contradictory : on the 6th of May he said that there *remained* to him 5 stamps ; on the 7th he sent fifty of them to another person. In May he affirmed that he had had only one sheet ; In September he wrote that he had had two. All this is not clear. As to admitting that one or three sheets could have passed through the printing machine by *error*, it is impossible.

One explanation presents itself : it is that an employee of the printing office where the surcharges were made, or some important personage of the Administration, has caused half a score of sheets of the 15c blue to pass under the surcharge Hoi Hao, and has placed the greater part of them in bottles, that is to say, in a safe place, leaving one or two sheets among the 15 gray for the purpose of establishing the actual existence of this rarity by its passage through the post office.

Be this as it may, the above letters prove two things positively : First, that the 15c blue of Hoi Hao has existed, since it has been sold at the post office at face value ; Secondly, that we will never know exactly how many sheets of it were printed nor what direction they have taken."

February 28, 1903. "We have seen some counterfeit Hoi Hao which are admirably made. It is, however, possible to distinguish them by the shade of the surcharge which is duller than on the genuine stamps. Furthermore, the surcharge is not exactly horizontal, which is always the case with the originals."

The New One-Cent Stamp.

When the new issue of the two cent stamp made its appearance it became necessary in the discharge of a duty to the public to speak of it in the language of mild satire. The new one-cent stamp of the reform series has now made its appearance and gentle irony fails to do it justice. Mr. Dooley is still the model, this time posing as FRANKLIN, who is caricatured with a chin which reminds one of the stocking which the patriotic young woman who had not learned how to "toe off" knit for some soldier who might need it. The foot got longer and longer, until it was about two yards in length. FRANKLIN'S chin bears about this relation to the rest of his features. As a portrait it is absurd, though it might answer very well as a caricature. It is supported on either side by two nude ma'e figures probably "writhing on amaranthine asphodel"—caryatids which support nothing, unless it be the absurdity of the design. In miniature they suggest "worms for bait." Is there no pension fund from which the designer for the Post Office Department may be guaranteed a comfortable support on the condition that he will design no more stamps? If not, would it not be an act of patriotism to create one by popular subscription? We wish him well, but even more strongly we wish that he might find some other and more fitting occupation than adding to the gayety of nations in this particular way. We value our historical heroes, and it pains us to have them made game of in this fashion. The Franklin stamp is "the limit."—*New York Times*.

Communications.

DANGEROUS FORGERY OF THE ICELAND PROVISIONALS OF 1897.

SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO.,

Gentlemen:—The surcharge "PRIR" in black over "3" in red on 5 aur green perf. 14x13½ has been imitated by lithography.

The shape of the Icelandic "P" is wrong and there is a dot over the "I" instead of an accent. Truly yours, W. T. WILSON.

389 Brixton Road, LONDON, S. W.
February 28, 1903.

THE SCOTT STAMP & CO N CO.,

Gentlemen:—Will you kindly give notice, through the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY that I have in preparation a Directory connected with Stamp Literature—collectors, dealers and publishers.

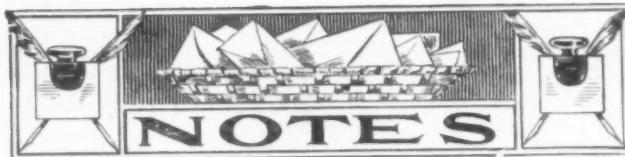
Insertion of names and addresses will be free, and publishers will be expected to forward specimens of their journals, so that I may give full particulars.

I might mention that this is not a financial speculation on my part as I fully expect to lose a good many pounds, besides loss of work in compilation, but there must necessarily be a few pioneers to further this "unwisely neglected" (as Mr. M. P. Castle says) adjutant to stamp collecting.

The Directory will be International in character and will contain articles by various writers upon philatelic literature

If you can render me any assistance with the temporary loan of all American journals to which you subscribe, or obtain copies. I shall be glad.

Awaiting your reply. Yours faithfully, VICTOR MARSH.



ABYSSINIA.—We quote from the *Monthly Journal*:

"We have received the 4, 8 and 16 guerche in Type I, but without the surcharge which these stamps should bear as *Unpaid Letter* stamps. We do not know whether these are to be regarded as Parisian *errors* or as Abyssinian *novelties*."



CHINA.—A correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* informs them that some few months ago he obtained a copy of the 4c of the current issue, surcharged "4 cents" in black at the bottom. This was on a letter sent from Chiha to India. Their correspondent asks if they have any information concerning the stamp, which the publishers of the *Monthly Journal* are unable to give.

Have any of our readers heard of this variety?



COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—The flood of new issues from this country still continues. We have reason to believe that many of these stamps are of even more questionable nature than we had hitherto supposed. Merchants of this city having business connections in the Colombian Republic have recently informed us that the currency there is now so debased that it will not be accepted in any other country at any price. In order to make small purchases here, merchants there buy stamps at the post offices and send them to commission houses in this country to be sold for whatever they will bring, and the money thus obtained is applied to payment of their bills. To assist this scheme, the various states are allowed to print anything they please and to make as many changes of color as they see fit, in order to create new varieties which it is hoped will be salable to stamp collectors.

Last month we reported a new one peso stamp printed in orange-brown; we have now seen the same stamp printed in bright rose and hear of it in blue. We have received from a correspondent in Cartagena a 50 centavos stamp with the portrait of Simon Bolivar, printed in green, scarlet, yellow and pale brown. We have also received a 5 pesos stamp printed in violet (two shades) and brown. The letter which enclosed these stamps was franked with the 20 centavos "Hill of La Popa" stamp, and we cannot hear of any of these new varieties or of the stamps reported last month in used condition. This makes us very suspicious of the stamps and we think it is possible that they are an out and out swindle. We shall not chronicle them at length until we have further information regarding them.

We give illustrations of some of these stamps.



DANISH WEST INDIES.—The following translation from the *St. Croix Avis* of February 11th has been sent us :

“ Notice to the Public.—For the time being, the Post Offices in St. Croix will admit the use of 4 cents postage stamps cut in half diagonally for the prepayment of postage, say in those cases where the amount of postage is covered by the payment of two cents or less.

The correspondence thus prepaid should be handed over the counter, and not dropped in a letter box.

The use of postage stamps thus cut will be disallowed, as soon as 2 cents stamps have been received, about which publication will be issued.

Government, St. Croix, the 10th Feb., 1903.—P. G. V.—LIMPRICHT.”

These bisected stamps are being offered in considerable quantities by people of the islands and in this country. It is quite probable that there was a legitimate demand for this provisional but, as the majority of the copies which are offered for sale have very evidently been cancelled to order, it becomes apparent that speculators have taken advantage of the opportunity.



ERITREA.—According to *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, a new series of stamps for this colony will be issued on April 1st of this year. The stamps will be made by surcharging the current Italian stamps of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 50 centimes, 1 and 5 lire with the words “*COLONIA ERITREA*”. Some postal cards will be likewise surcharged. The stamps now in use will remain current until March 31, 1904.

In addition to this, *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* is informed by two correspondents that, at the same date, the current Italian postage due stamps will be surcharged for use in the colony.



FRENCH OFFICES IN CHINA—TCHONG-KING.—The *Monthly Journal* reports some new stamps for these offices :

“ We have been shown a curious lot of stamps, obtained at Tchong-King, and sent home by an officer in the navy to a friend in England. The French post office in that town is stated to have been opened rather more than a year ago, and to have used for some twelve months the ordinary stamps of Indo-China. In October last (or so we gather) the postmaster got permission to

surcharge the stamps, a privilege that was immediately withdrawn, but not before he had taken full advantage of it by producing *two* sets of provisionals:—

1. The ordinary stamps of Indo China, surcharged 'TCHONG-KING,' in small sans serif capitals, in red on the 1c, 5c, 10c, black on lilac, and 15c grey; in black on the 2c, 4c, 10c, rose red, 15c blue, 20c, 25c, 30c, 40c, 50c, 75c, and 1fr.

2. The stamps surcharged 'CHINE' and with value in Chinese, with the same overprint in black on all the values from 1c to 5fr, but including only the 10c rose red and 15c grey.

"All the copies shown us were stuck upon a sheet of paper, and obliterated with a circular date stamp, bearing 'TCHONG-KING' above, Chinese characters below, and '3—NOV—02' in centre. *C'est magnifique, mais ——!*"

Mr. W. J. Gardner has written us reporting that some of these same varieties have been seen in San Francisco, all of which were cancelled "Jan. 2, 1903."



HAVTI.—Mr. R. S. Nelson has shown us the 2, 7 and 8 centimes with the "Provisional Government" surcharge inverted. *Mekeel's Weekly* adds the 10 and 50 centimes in the same condition.



HONG KONG.—We show the type of the new series.



NICARAGUA.—Mr. A. H. Greenebaum has shown us the 5 centavos stamp printed in olive, the color of the 4 centavos. The stamp is used and, while the shade is rather lighter than that of most the 4c stamps, it appears to be genuine and not a manufactured affair.



PERU.—Mr. Gelli has shown the *Monthly Journal* a vertical *tête bêche* pair of the 5c parcels post stamp.



PORTO RICO.—We recently had submitted to us for examination a number of stamps surcharged "Habilitado Para 1898 y 99" and "Impuesto de Guerra". So far as we can see, these varieties are not counterfeits, yet they are impressed on stamps which were not known to collectors at the time the issues were current or else were of considerable rarity at that time. It is the opinion of the best informed collectors of Porto Rico stamps that reprinting has been resorted to. It is known that the rubber hand stamps with which the stamps were surcharge were sold with the remainders of the stamps, and,

as many stamps of the issues 1890 to 1897 are obtainable in quantities at small prices, the facilities for making reprints are not lacking.

We advise collectors to be cautious in making purchases until more is known of these new varieties.



QUEENSLAND.—We quote from the *Australian Philatelist*:

"Mr. Van Weenen has shown us an official reply to some questions asked the Deputy Postmaster General for the six-penny green with the figure 6 in lower corners only; it is stated that this stamp was never issued by the department. In the official book of stamps they have one copy, which is marked as an essay. It appears that only four, in a block, were printed, but what has become of the other three it is impossible to say. The Government printer does not appear to have any record of it. There is no intention to issue a new 2s. 6d stamp. A 9d stamp has been submitted to the head office for approval, but up to date no intimation of it having been approved has been received by the authorities in Brisbane."



SALVADOR.—Mr. A. H. Greenebaum has shown us a number of uncatalogued varieties of the stamps of this country, as follows: The provisional stamp of 1892, 1c on 5c gray (No. 70) with the "U" of "UN" omitted. Of the 1899 series there are the 2c green and 3c blue (Nos. 214 and 215) with the wheel surcharge double. Of the stamps of the same issue surcharged "1900" and new value we are shown the 1c and 13c deep rose (No. 238) with the surcharge reading "1 CENTAVO 1" and the 1c on 2c green (No. 244) in a horizontal pair without perforation between and a single copy with the wheel double. Of this series there is also a 26c carmine rose which appears to have been surcharged "1900—1 CENTAVO" and wheel and afterwards a "5" was printed over the "1". Our catalogue calls for a 5c on 26c but not for a 1c on 26c, yet in this instance the "5" appears to be the figure last impressed.

Of the stamps with the date 1900 as part of the design there are the 1c yellow green and 10c blue (Nos. 263a and 256) without any surcharge; also the 5c blue (No. 273) with black surcharge double and another copy having the second surcharge inverted.

Finally there are two official stamps: The 15c on 24c violet of 1896 (No. 544) with the surcharge "DE OFICIO" etc. in purple; and a companion stamp to our No. 591, the 26c carmine rose surcharged "FRANQUEO OFICIAL" and wheel and punched with twelve small holes.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—*The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* reports a copy of the 2 pence orange, perforated 15, with the tall o. s. surcharge inverted.



SWEDEN.—Mr. Jacob Bolin kindly furnishes us with the following information in regard to a prospective issue for this country:

"In about six months Sweden will issue a new stamp, value 5 kroner. It will be of same height as the current issue of the other stamps, but of double their breadth, i.e., essentially of the same size as the Swedish Officials.

It will show a picture of the new Central Post Office in Stockholm, and on the back the words "Osäljbart"—Unsalable. This to avoid its being used by the public in place of money, thereby resembling the Wurtemberg 2 mark stamp with its "Unverkauflich".

"Because of difficulty in distinguishing between the present 20 and 50 ore by artificial light, the color of the latter will shortly be changed to a greyish brown."



TURKEY.—The *Monthly Journal* has seen a copy of the current 5 paras stamp, for external postage on newspapers, with the surcharge inverted at the bottom of the stamp.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—We illustrate the new 2 pence stamp.





UNITED STATES.—We have seen the 6c of the new series and "Specimen" stamps of the denominations 15, 50c, \$1, \$2 and \$5. The 6c has the portrait of Garfield which appears on the 1882 issue; the 15c a new portrait of Clay; the 50c a portrait of Jefferson, apparently that of the 1851 issue; the \$1 a new portrait of Farragut; and the \$2 and \$5 the portraits of Madison and Marshall, respectively, which appear on the same denominations of the 1894-95 issues. The stamps are finely engraved, and, while they have the same overcrowded effect that we have objected to in others of the series, at the same time the three higher values are more pleasing than most of the lower denominations.

We have also seen the new 2 cents envelope, printed on white, amber, blue and buff papers. The design is certainly the ugliest which has ever been inflicted on us in this country. It is a rectangle with rounded corners and the description of Mr. Geo. L. Toppan, given elsewhere in this journal, that it suggest a baggage check, fits it extremely well. The watermark is also new and is about as ungraceful as the stamp. We shall not for the present attempt to list the sizes of the new envelopes.

We have seen the frank stamp of the Western Union Telegraph Company for 1903. The design is the same as has been in use since 1895 but bears a fac-simile of the signature of the present president R. C. Clowry.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked U. S. P. S.
Perforated 12.
6c red brown

15c olive
50c orange
\$1 black
\$2 dark blue
\$5 dark green
Envelopes.
Watermarked



2c carmine on white
2c carmine on amber
2c carmine on blue
2c carmine on oriental buff
Telegraph stamp.
Western Union Telegraph Co.
Perforated.
no value, green (1903)

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.
—The *Monthly Journal* reports that the two-pence postage due has been issued with the blank space at the bottom filled in.

Postage Due stamp.
Perforated
2p emerald green

BERMUDA.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* reports a new wrapper with stamp of the "dock-yard" design.

Wrapper
½p green

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—Dr. W. J. Gascoyne writes us describing a new variety of the stamps surcharged in manuscript in 1891-94. The stamp is somewhat similar to our No. 31. This is the 2 anna stamp surcharged "½ anna," with the initials "A. B." below, the denomination ½ being arranged thus, "½". The new variety has a similar surcharge but with the ½ arranged thus, "½", and the initials "A D." We believe these initials have heretofore only been known on stamps with the hand-stamped surcharge.

Adhesive stamp.

Provisional issue.

Manuscript surcharge.

½a on 2a vermilion

COREA.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* reports three new provisionals, made by surcharging the 25 and 50 poon of the 1895 issue with new values, 1, 2 and 3 cheun, in black. The surcharge consists of the Chinese sign for "cheun", with one, two or three horizontal bars above.

Adhesive stamps.

Provisional issue.

Black surcharge.

Perforated 1 ½.

1ch on 25p red brown

2ch on 25p red brown

Perforated 1 ¾.

3ch on 50p purple

COSTA RICA.—*Mekel's Weekly Stamp News* reports the appearance of three high values of the 1901 set with the surcharge "OFICIAL." The 50 centavos is already included in our catalogue.

Official stamps.

Perforated.

Black surcharge.

1 col olive bistre and black

2 " carmine rose and dark green

We illustrate the provisional official stamps which we chronicled in January.



ECUADOR.—The 25 centavos revenue stamp has been converted into a postage stamp by surcharging it with the word "Correos" and new value.

Adhesive stamp.

Unwatermarked.

Perforated.

Black surcharge.

1c on 25c yellow

FRENCH OFFICES.—Mr. Wm. Thorne has shown us a variety of new stamps for French Offices in the Levant, China, Egypt and Morocco. The stamps are of the same types as the current issues of France of corresponding denominations but with the inscriptions altered, as has been described in previous numbers of the JOURNAL.

French Offices in the Levant.—

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

10c rose red

15c pale red

20c brown lilac

Black surcharge.

1pi on 25c blue

French Offices in Crete.—

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

Black surcharge.

2pi on 50c bistre brown and lavender

der

4pi on 1fr claret and olive green

8pi on 2fr gray violet and yellow
20pi on 5fr dark blue and buff

French Offices in China.—

Adhesive stamp.

Perforated.

20c brown lilac

French Offices in Egypt—Alexandria.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

10c rose red

15c pale rose

20c brown lilac

25c blue

30c lilac

Port Said.—

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

20c brown lilac

25c blue

30c lilac

French Offices in Morocco.—

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

Black surcharge.

15c on 15c dull red

20c on 20c brown lilac

25c on 25c blue

INDIA—Bhopaul.—The *Monthly Journal* says :

"Messrs. Alfred Smith & Son have shown us the new 4a with a new form of embossing; the characters are now in quite a different form, and compose a design somewhat resembling that upon Type I of Hyderabad; they are enclosed in a double-line circle, with the date '1320' (April 10th, 1902, to March 29th, 1903) at top. The stamp also is in yellow instead of orange. The stamps first received had the usual embossed design in a double-line octagon, the frame of which is generally very indistinct. We have seen it inverted on the 1/2, 4, 8a and 1 rupee."

Adhesive stamp.

Imperforate.

4a yellow

IVORY COAST.—Last month we chronicled two postal packet stamps, 50 and 60 centimes, on the authority of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. We now learn that this was an error and that the stamps are really the 50c and 1fr. Three thousand of each of these were issued. We also learn that 75 copies of each value had the words "Cote d'Ivoire" omitted.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News says : "The explanation of the issue of these stamps is that parcels received from France have no stamps (which is the rule wherever they are sent to). On arrival in the Colony, the parcels are stamped, presumably with the amount of the share of the postage due to the Colony for local carriage."

Postal Packet stamps.

Black surcharge.

50c lilac

1fr rose on cream

MALTA.—We have seen two new stamps for this colony. The design is very like that of the first 1/2 penny, but the Queen's head is replaced by that of King Edward, in a small oval, surmounted by a crown. In appearance the stamps are an improvement on most of the new King's Head issues.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

1/2p dark green

2p gray and red violet

NEW ZEALAND.—We have seen the 8 pence on single-lined N. Z. and Star paper.

Mr. Fred Hagen has also sent us a new special delivery stamp printed on this same paper. The design and execution cannot be commended for their beauty. The body of the design is printed in purple and the value, 6d, in red on a small white shield in the center; the inscriptions at top are, "POST OFFICE" with the

letter "N" at left and "Z" at right; across the center, "EXPRESS—DELIVERY," the words being separated by the shield previously referred to; across the bottom in two lines, "Secures Immediate Delivery—at a Special Delivery Office;" above the shield are fern fronds and at each side, in the upper part, are what we judge to be pictures of the idols formerly worshipped by the natives.

Adhesive stamp.

Perforated 11.

Watermarked single-lined N. Z. and Star.

8p deep blue

Special Delivery stamp.

Perforated 11.

Watermarked single-lined N. Z. and Star.

6p purple and scarlet

PARAGUAY.—We have two more provisional stamps to chronicle. The one peso of the 1900 issue has been surcharged one centavo in three lines, like the two provisional stamps chronicled last month, and the 8cc of the 1892 issue has been similarly surcharged five centavos.

Adhesive stamps.



Provisional issue.

Black surcharge.

1c on 1p slate

5c on 8cc light blue

PERSIA.—We have seen three more surcharges to add to the too lengthy series recently issued in this country. These are the 3 shahi green of the new issue surcharged diagonally with new value, 1 or 2 shahi, and Persian characters, and the 10 krans rose

of the same issue surcharged 12 shah and Persian characters in a straight line across the bottom. The surcharge appears to be the same as that used on No. 181 of our catalogue.

Incidentally, we may mention that in a recent purchase we obtained a part of a sheet of this No. 181, one stamp of which had not received the black surcharge, "Provisoire 1319".

We have also seen six more stamps of the last issue with the "Service" surcharge. These include the 2 tomans on 50 krans. We may add that the surcharge on the shahi stamps is applied diagonally and on the kran values in a straight line across the top.

We have recently seen a number of the typeset stamps which were issued last year, but which appear to be of a new printing. The background is printed in yellow instead of buff, as on the earlier stamps, and the word "SHAH" at the top, instead of being in small capitals, has an initial capital and the other letters lower case. We have seen this stamp with the black surcharge "Provisoire 1319" and we find it reported in some of our contemporaries as existing with the red surcharge, lion in an ornamental frame. We have not seen any of these varieties used postally and from their general appearance are of the opinion that they are reprints.

Adhesive stamps.

Provisional issue.

Perforated.

Blue black surcharge.

1s on 3s green

2s on 3s green

Ultramarine surcharge.

12s on 10k rose

Official stamps.

Perforated.

Black surcharge.

1s lilac

2s gray

3s green

10s yellow brown

2k ultramarine

Black and blue surcharges.

2t on 50k yellow green

ROUMANIA. — *The Timbrophile Belge* reports four postage due stamps printed on wove paper with rose gum.

Postage Due stamps.

Perforated 11½.

Rose gum.

2b green

5b "

10b "

30b "

SERVIA. — Mr. William Thorne has shown us the 25 and 50 paras of the current type (A7 in our catalogue) printed in gray violet and bistre, respectively. We presume these are the same stamps as were chronicled by us in November, on the authority of an European contemporary, as being issued in ultramarine and brown.

We learn from the *Timbrophile Belge* that a one dinar stamp in the larger size (type A8) has also appeared. The stamps are on white wove paper.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 11½.

25p gray violet

50p bistre

1d brown

SOMALI COAST. — Mr. William Thorne has shown us various stamps of the so called permanent set. These include a 4 centimes of the Mosque type and six stamps of various denominations from 20 to 75 centimes, of upright rectangular shape, having as the principal feature of the design a very long legged camel with two riders, in a central oval, above this is the word "POSTES" and curved around the sides and bottom the words "COTE FRANCAISE DES SOMALIS;" in the upper left corner are the letters "R. F." in monogram, and the value is in the upper right corner. There are also three stamps with the values in francs. These

are larger size, 2½x35½mm. They have in the center a group of three warriors, the word "POSTES" above, "COTE FRANCAISE DES SOMALIS" in two curved lines below, the denomination followed by the letter "F" in a small square in the upper left corner, and the monogram "R. F." in a circular device at the upper right.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

4c blue and carmine

20c violet and green

25c blue and pale blue

30c red and black

40c orange and blue

50c green and vermillion

75c red orange and violet

1fr red orange and violet

2fr yellow green and carmine

5fr orange and blue

SOUTH AUSTRALIA. — We have seen the large 2sh 6p stamp printed in deep purple, instead of the earlier violet shade.

Mr. Fred Hagen has also sent us a £1 stamp, which we presume to be the 2osh stamp chronicled in our January number.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Crown and S. A. letters close together.

Perforated 11½.

2sh 6p purple

£1 blue

TRANSVAAL. — Several European journals report the appearance of a new £1 and £5 stamp. We understand that only "Specimen" copies thus far have been seen.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

£1 violet and green

£5 violet and orange

TRINIDAD. — The shilling stamp which we reported in November,

1901, as having been sent to the island, has at last been put in issue.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.
Perforated 14.
1sh black and blue on yellow

Changes in Catalogue Prices.

A dash (—) means that a price has been dropped.

DENMARK.				12 1893	10n	75
83	1902	30	3	14	25n	35
84	"	10	2	19	7n	20
85	"	50	5	23	1fl	85
86	"	100	6	37	1898 2n	4
GOLD COAST.				160	1900	22C
25	1894	20s	8 50	1 25	PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.	
31	1898	1s		25	7	1855 5c
33	1900	5s		1 25		30 00
34	"	10s		1 75	PARAGUAY.	
JAPAN.				142	1901 2c	20
83	1883	92	50s	143	" 4c	10
84	"	1y		144	" 5c	20
				145	" 8c	25
				146	" 1cc	35
MONTENEGRO.				PERSIA.		
1	1874	2n	12	181	1902 12s on 1k	15
7	"	25n	50	184	" 5s on 10s	5
7a	"	25n	50			

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Feb. 5th.—Mrs. A. H. Bridson, Messrs. T. A. McIntyre, J. G. W. Boulton, T. W. Morris and C. Giacomini were unanimously elected members.

Messrs. G. W. Martin, W. Schwarte, G. L. Edwards, C. J. Byrne were thanked for contributions to the Library and Messrs. W. F. Wadams, F. W. Ayre, and W. G. Walton for donations to the Permanent Collection.

Mr. J. A. Margoschis then gave by means of the aphengscope, which shows the stamps on the screen in their natural colors, a very interesting and instructive lantern display of over 100 varieties and remarks on each.

Feb. 27th and 28th.—A very successful auction was held on these evenings. Mr. J. H. Telfer (of the firm of Messrs. Plumridge & Co) very kindly conducted the sale of over 480 lots which belonged to members only. At the close Mr. Telfer was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks. Messrs. W. H. Lythall, C. P. Rogers, J. Bouchard, F. Gerhartz and A. F. Pickford were unanimously elected members.

March 5th.—Mr. A. Graham was unanimously elected a member.

Messrs. T. W. Peck, A. P. Walker and G. Johnson then showed collections of various countries and gave notes on them.

Disclaimer.—A person giving the name and address of Dr. E. W. Kemps, 31 Emsholt St., Camdens Gardens, London, N. W., and sometimes adding “*Directeur du medical controle*” is writing to many dealers asking for selections and saying that he is a member of the B. P. S. He is not a member and never has been. I immediately put the matter into the hands of the police and they inform me that as usual it is a small barber's shop where letters are left, and that several registered and other letters were then awaiting him. They are doing the same. I hope that long ere this they have met.

We have the following books for sale for the benefit of the Permanent Collection. All are in good order. Offers in cash or stamps to be sent by April 30th at latest.

London Philatelist, vols. 5, 6, 7, 10. P. J. of G. B., vols. 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12. Gibbons' M. J., vols. 4, 5, 6, 8, 10. Stamps, vols. 3, 4, 5. S. C. Fortnightly, vols. 2, 3, 4, 7. Ewen's W. S. N., vols. 5, 6, 7, 8. Stamp Collector, vol. 6. Stamp News, vols. 7, 8, 10. Stamp News Annual, 1891. Phil. Chron. & Ad., vols. 2, 8. Stamp Auction Reporter, 14 Nos. complete. Philatelic Referee, vol. 1.



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